

COVER SHEET

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: United States Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE: Draft Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
(GNEP PEIS; DOE/EIS-0396)

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Abstract: The proposed Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) Program, which is part of the President's Advanced Energy Initiative, is intended to support a safe, secure, and sustainable expansion of nuclear energy, both domestically and internationally. Domestically, the GNEP Program would promote technologies that support economic, sustained production of nuclear-generated electricity, while reducing the impacts associated with spent nuclear fuel disposal and reducing proliferation risks. The Department of Energy (DOE) proposed action envisions changing the United States nuclear energy fuel cycle from an open (or once-through) fuel cycle—in which nuclear fuel is used in a power plant one time and the resulting spent nuclear fuel is stored for eventual disposal in a geologic repository—to a closed fuel cycle in which spent nuclear fuel would be recycled to recover energy-bearing components for use in new nuclear fuel. At this time, DOE has no specific proposed actions for the international component of the GNEP Program. Rather, the United States, through the GNEP Program, is considering various initiatives to work cooperatively with other nations. Such initiatives include the development of grid-appropriate reactors and the development of reliable fuel services (to provide an assured supply of fresh nuclear fuel and assist with the management of the used fuel) for nations who agree to employ nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes, such as electricity generation.

DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy is preparing this programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of expanding nuclear power in the United States using either the existing fuel cycle or various alternative closed and open fuel cycles. Six programmatic alternatives are assessed: No Action Alternative; Fast Reactor Recycle Alternative; Thermal/Fast Reactor Recycle Alternative; Thermal Reactor Recycle Alternative; Thorium Alternative; and Heavy Water Reactor/High Temperature Gas-Cooled Reactor Alternative. DOE has not selected a specific preferred alternative in this Draft PEIS, but DOE's preference is to close the fuel cycle.

Public Comments: A 60-day comment period on this document begins with the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. DOE will consider comments received after the 60-day period to the extent practicable. DOE will hold public hearings to receive comments on this document at the times and locations announced in local media and the DOE Notice of Availability. Comments may also be submitted to Mr. Francis Schwartz by mail at the above address or electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov/>. This document and related information are available on the Internet at www.gnep.energy.gov.